



Topic 6: Gender equality in fisheries and aquaculture

Overview by Meryl Williams



13th AFAP
Tainan. Taiwan

8 high quality presentations, strong Q&A

Plenary

K. Kusakabe - *How gender perspective contributes to improved understanding of fisheries management*

Invited

H. Hapke - *Gender in fisheries and aquaculture: A research agenda for equity and robust science*

Oral presentations

1. J. House - *Participatory monitoring in community-based fisheries management through a gender lens*
2. K. Barclay - *Pacific handbook for human rights, gender equity and social inclusion in tuna industries*
3. C. Anderson - *Unpacking gendered roles across the seaweed value chain in Samoa: An exploratory study*
4. A. Nietes Satapornvanit - *Integrating gender equality and social inclusion in fisheries project implementation*
5. Ms. Arve Banez - *Three faces of agency and the gendered social relations of women and men in the artisanal lampirong (Placuna placenta) fishery of Oton, Iloilo, Panay Philippines*

Poster

Siyانبola Omitoyin - *Gender participation in fish seed production in Ibadan Metropolis, Oyo State Nigeria*

Increasing depth in gender and fisheries/aquaculture studies

- **Geographic focus** on SE & S Asia and Pacific; one African contribution; + global insights
- **Collective knowledge** highlighted general lessons and importance of context (5 presentations)
 - Major literature reviews (**Kusakabe, House**)
 - Large collaborations (**Barclay, Nietes Satapornvanit**) and
 - Decades of research knowledge (**Kusakabe, Hapke**)
- **Insightful, locally diverse case studies** (2 oral, 1 poster presentation)
 - Samoa seaweed farming and harvesting potential (**Anderson**)
 - Capiz shell (*Placuna placenta*) dive fishery, Oton, Philippines (**Banez**)
 - Fish seed production in Ibadan, Nigeria (**Omitoyin**)

3 take home messages

- Why and how research and management are practiced are critical to gender studies
 - Why include gender: present focus on instrumental (*better for fisheries*), wary of intrinsic (*better for women, households*) (**House**)
 - Gender (and sex) research makes fisheries research more robust (**Hapke**)
 - Need to move beyond descriptive (gender roles) to theorised (highly contextualised gender relations) research, e.g., materialist feminist framework that includes economics & environment, social, cultural, political & legal institutions (governance) (**Hapke**)
 - Lack of data a major barrier (**Kusakabe, Hapke, House, Barclay, Nietes Satapornvanit**). Participatory data collection, e.g. in monitoring of fisheries management, can be entry point (**House**) – representation in participation, transparency in research engagement, reflexive approaches rather than handy narratives.
 - What fisheries management considers relevant affects whether gender is considered: Which fisheries? What parts of the value chain? Which management unit (the household production unit, the village community, the firm, etc)? (**Anderson, Banez, Barclay**)
- Women's agency needs more focus than victimhood, marginalisation
 - Foster women's sense of entitlement, change self-perceptions, raise ability speak & organise; men needed for this too (**Kusakabe**)
 - Women's agency takes many forms and has several dimensions (**Banez, Hapke**)
 - Women not a homogeneous group - intersectionality is critical (**Hapke, Nietes Satapornvanit, Barclay**)
- Gender relations are dynamic under ruptures and adaptations
 - Gender relations can be altered not just by climate, declining resources, natural disasters but also by new technologies and markets (**Kuskabe, Hapke, Anderson, Banez, Nietes Satapornvanit, Omitoyim**)